

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: GOP CLOSES LEFTIST PUBLICATIONS

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT POLICE TODAY ENTERED OFFICES OF FAR-LEFT MAGAZINE MARKA, ARRESTED THE DIRECTOR AND OTHER PERSONNEL, AND CLOSED THE MAGAZINE INDEFINITELY. POLICE ALSO REPORTEDLY ARRESTED CESAR LEVANO, EDITOR OF WEEKLY LABOR SUPPLEMENT TO LA PRENSA, LA JORNADA.

2. COMMENT: MARKA, A BI-WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF POLITICAL OPINION, FIRST APPEARED MAY 1. IT HAS BEEN ONLY SERIOUS JOURNAL OR NON-CONFORMIST AND CRITICAL OPINION IN PERU. OTHER CRITICAL JOURNALS SUCH AS CARETAS AND OIGA HAD EARLIER BEEN CLOSED BY THE GOP. MARKA ANALYSIS IS MARXIST AND ITS TONE STRIDENT, GOP WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNEASY OVER ITS HANDLING OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES. MARKA OPENLY CRITICIZED GOP POLICIES INCLUDING AGRARIAN REFORM, SOCIAL PROPERTY, AND DECISIONS IN THE MINING SECTOR. FOR EXAMPLE, MARKA TERMED PAYMENT TO CERRO DE PASCO ACT OF "BOURGEOISE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT".

3. MARKA WAS PROBABLY CLOSED FOR VIOLATION OF "FREEDOM OF THE PRESS" STATUTES. ITS CRITICISM OF THE GOP OVERSTEPPED RATHER NARROW "PARAMETERS" OF CRITICISM TOLERATED BY THE MILGOV. LAST STRAW PROBABLY WAS STRONG ARTICLE ON PRESIDENT VELASCO'S INDEPENDENCE

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DAY SPEECH. MARKA CRITICIZED VELASCO FOR MAKING NO QUALITATIVE

DISTINCTION BETWEEN COMMUNISTS "WHO CARRY THE BANNER OF NATIONALISM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE" AND APRISTAS WHOM THE GOVERNMENT CHARGED WITH "RESPONSIBILITY FOR FEBRUARY 5 RIOTS". MARKA ALSO CRITICIZED VELASCO'S OPTIMISITC TONE IN HIS ECONOMIC REMARKS. MARKA NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S OPTINION WAS NOT SHARED BY THE PEOPLE ON WHOM FULL IMPACT OF GOP ECONOMIC POLICY (ELIMINATION OF SUBSIDIES) FALLS. MARKA DECLARED THAT VELASCO'S

PROMISE OF "BETTER TIMES AHEAD" WAS NO COMFORT TO THE WORKERS. MARKA ALSO DECRIED CURSORY MENTION OF MARCONA IN THE INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH AND SPECULATED THAT LACK OF EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO NON-PAYMENT FOR MARCONA MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTENTIONAL IN ORDER TO LEAVE OPEN POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COMPANY RESULTING IN A SECRET "GREENE-TYPE DEAL".

4. THE ARREST OF CESAR LEVANO, EDITOR OF LA PRENSA'S LABOR SUPPLEMENT IS ALSO INDICATIVE OF GOP SENSITIVITY TOWARD PRESSURE FROM THE LEFT. LEVANO HAS EDITORIALY SUPPORTED COMMUNIST POSITION IN HIS SUPPLEMENT AND HAS BACKED THE COMMUNIST TRADE UNION (CGTP) WHILE DEFAMING THE GOP-BACKED LABOR ORGANIZATION (CTRP).IRONICALLY, LA JORNADA EARLY AND CONSISTENTLY CARRIED THE CASE FOR EXPROPRIATION OF MARCONA FOR THE "SINS"LISTED IN GOP DECREE LAW. LEVANO HIMSELF, HOWEVER, NO DOUBT SINNED IN HIS SUPPORT OF THE CGTP IN ITS LOSING STRUGGLE WITH THE GOVERNMENT UNION OVER CONTROL OF MARCONA WORKERS.

5. ARREST OF LEVANO IN NO WAY IMPLIES GOP DISSATISFIED WITH GILBERTO ESCUDERO, NEW DIRECTOR OF LA PRENSA, BUT IS INSTEAD A RATHER VIGOROUS EXAMPLE OF GOP DETERMINATION TO ELIMINATE "INFILTRATORS" FROM THE MEDIA AND TO CREATE A MORE RESPONSIVE PRESS. GOP IS COUNTING ON FULLY SUPPORTIVE MEDIA IN ITS INCIPIENT EFFORTS TO BUILD MASS SUPPORT FOR ITS POLITICAL MOVEMENT.CLOSING OF MARKA MAY HELP IN THIS TASK. THIS ACTION FOLLOWING ON THE HEELS OF THE MARCONA EXPROPRIATION DEMONSTRATES ONCE AGAIN CONFLICTING POLITICAL UNDERCURRENTS RUNNING THROUGH THE REVOLUTION.  
DEAN

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